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OBITUARY*

E. TREACHER COLLINS

THE death of Mr. Treacher Collins, which took place on Tuesday, December 13, has deprived the world of English Ophthalmology of one of its principal leaders. Very early in his career he attained an established position and in recent years he came to be regarded as the doyen of British Ophthalmologists. Throughout his life a careful and skilful observer he did much to establish the very high reputation of British Ophthalmology in the scientific world.

Edward Treacher Collins was the son of Dr. W. J. Collins, of London, and his mother, a daughter of Mr. Edward Treacher, came of an old Huguenot stock. His elder brother, Sir William Job Collins, well-known as an ophthalmic surgeon, and as a former chairman of the London County Council and for some years a Liberal M.P., has served the country well in many public offices.


Treacher Collins was educated at University College School

*This memoir is based, by permission, upon that contributed to the *British Medical Journal* for December 24, 1932. We are indebted to the same Journal for the block for illustration.

which in his schooldays still occupied premises behind the present University College. He and Ernest Clarke, whose obituary appeared in our last number, were at school together, though Clarke was by some years the senior. He qualified from the Middlesex Hospital in 1883 and very soon turned his attention to Ophthalmology, being House Surgeon at Moorfields from 1884 to 1887. It was the work done in the following seven years—1887 to 1894—as Curator and Pathologist to the Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital (Moorfields) which laid the foundations of his extensive and accurate knowledge of ophthalmology and established his reputation as a scientific worker. His first paper in the Moorfields Hospital Reports appeared in 1887 on anophthalmos, and his contributions to the Ophthalmological Society's Transactions began in a modest way in 1888. (He had been elected a member in 1885.) He became a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1890.

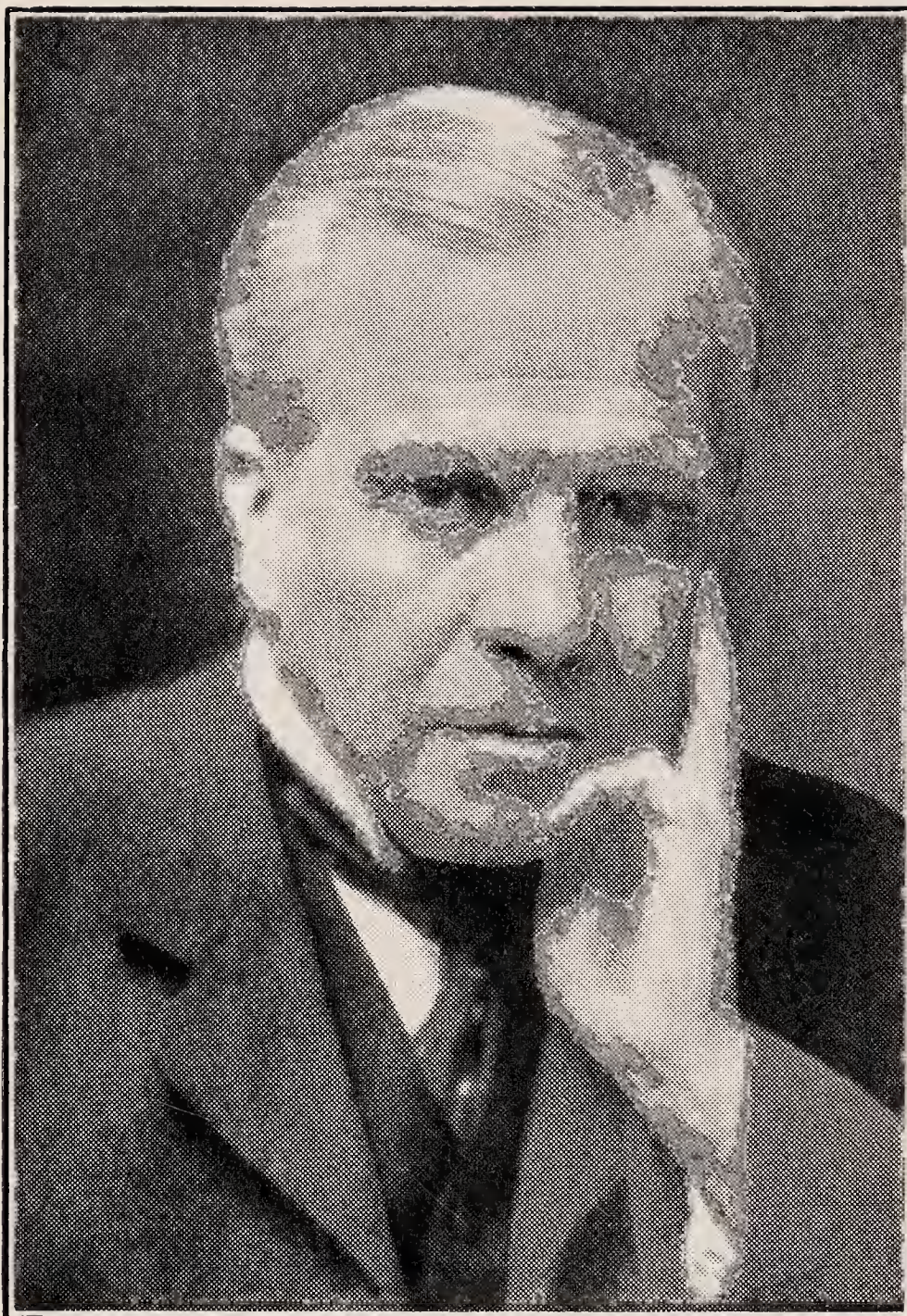
The results of his ten years apprenticeship at Moorfields were summarized in the Hunterian Lectures which he gave to the Royal College of Surgeons in 1894 and in these lectures will be found the germ of much work which he subsequently elaborated. The lectures, revised and enlarged, were published in book form in 1896 under the title of "Researches into the Anatomy and Pathology of the Eye." It was this work which gained for him the Middlemore Prize of the British Medical Association. But probably what Collins valued more than anything else was, that it was his period of office as Curator that established the reputation of Moorfields as a leading school of research and education in the Eye world and many ophthalmologists of note in Great Britain, America, and elsewhere, look back with affectionate regard to the work they did under Collins's guidance in the Moorfields' laboratory.

In 1894, Mr. George Lawson, Surgeon Oculist to Queen Victoria, was asked to nominate an Ophthalmic Surgeon to go to Persia to operate on the Shah's eldest son, and Collins was selected. He married before his departure and spent his honeymoon in Persia. On his return, he wrote an account of his experiences there under the title "In the Kingdom of the Shah." He was rewarded for his services with the Order of the Lion and the Sun. Among other results of his experiences was a keen interest in and an extensive knowledge of Persian art, especially carpets and faience. On his return in 1895, he was elected to the Staff of the Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital as Assistant Surgeon. From the time of his appointment as House Surgeon till his death, when he was a Consulting Surgeon and a member of the Committee of Management of the Hospital, a period of 48 years elapsed.



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E. TREACHER COLLINS

During the five years following his return from Persia, despite the increasing claims of clinical work on his time, he continued his anatomical and pathological researches, and again the work of these five years was partially summarised in the Erasmus Wilson lectures delivered at the Royal College of Surgeons in February, 1900 on the Anatomy and Pathology of the Eye.

About this time, the question of the removal of the Hospital from its old site in Moorfields to City Road was under consideration and Collins, as Secretary of the Medical Board, had much to do with the consequent arrangements.

A short list of his hospital appointments will serve to show the amount of purely clinical work that he did. In addition to his Moorfields Surgeoncy, he was Ophthalmic Surgeon to Charing Cross Hospital and to the Belgrave Hospital for Children, Visiting Ophthalmic Surgeon to the Metropolitan Asylums Board Ophthalmia Schools at Swanley, Consulting Surgeon to the Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital and to the Oxford Eye Hospital. He was also Lecturer on Ophthalmology to Charing Cross Hospital, at the London School of Tropical Medicine and to the Oxford University Post Graduate School of Ophthalmology. He was Secretary of the Ophthalmological Society from 1898 to 1901, having previously served on the Council, and became a Vice-President for the first time in 1905. In 1915 he was awarded the Nettleship Medal (given for the most distinguished scientific work in Ophthalmology done in the preceding three years), and in 1917 he was elected to the Presidency. During his Presidency the formation of the Council of British Ophthalmologists was first mooted and he took a leading part in the founding of this body which has played such an important part in what may be called the State and Public relations of Ophthalmic Science. A few years later he became President of the Council and occupied this position for three years. In 1921 he was asked to give the Bowman Lecture, the highest honour that can be conferred by British Oculists, and, characteristically, he chose a purely scientific subject for his lecture—"Changes in the visual organs correlated with the adoption of arboreal life and the assumption of the erect posture." The lecture illustrated fully the breadth of his scientific knowledge and amount of painstaking research which he put into all his work. "The Times," in its obituary notice, calls it "an instructive and not too technical account of the influence of environment on the adaptation of the organs of sight in the struggle for existence. Its scope is much wider than is indicated by the title."

Collins was the official representative for the British Government at the American Ophthalmological Congress in 1922. Shortly after his return from America, negotiations for the resumption of the International Congresses, such as had been held at four year

intervals before the war, were begun. It was soon found that the difficulties in the way of the resumption of the normal Congresses were too great and, in place of an International Congress, a Convention of English-speaking Ophthalmologists was held in London in 1925. For that occasion, Collins, for the second time, became President of the Ophthalmological Society and much of the success of the Convention was due to the gracious way in which he conducted the business of the meeting. Few who were present at the Banquet in the Guildhall, when the Duke of Connaught was the Guest of Honour, will forget the charm and grace of the Chairman's speech. It was during that meeting that Collins was asked to select a small committee of five to try to arrange for a true International Congress. Only the few who formed that committee can know the amount of work that he did to ensure its success. As a result of its work and of the most valuable co-operation of Professor van der Hoeve, a meeting was held at Scheveningen in 1927 attended by 50 delegates representing 25 different nationalities, and, though Collins's small committee looked forward with some trepidation to the meeting, nothing could have gone more smoothly. At the conclusion of the meeting at Scheveningen, when the International Council of Ophthalmologists was formed, Collins was elected by universal acclamation Honorary President of the Council, and so took his place beside Bowman, von Graefe, Donders and Fuchs as a leader in International Ophthalmology.

In 1931 he was awarded the Mackenzie Medal and took as the subject of his address "The Physiology of Weeping." This was published in our columns last year.

He was an Honorary Member of the American Medical Association, of the Copenhagen Medical Society, the Egyptian Ophthalmological Society and the Hungarian Ophthalmological Society.

It is impossible to enumerate here all the contributions of Treacher Collins to the literature of Ophthalmology. There are over 100 original papers of varying size in the Transactions of the Ophthalmological Society alone, apart from innumerable contributions to discussions, and very frequently Collins's remarks in a discussion were of much greater value than the paper that gave rise to them. In the Moorfields Reports, there are more than 20 papers of value. Others appeared in the Transactions of the Section of Ophthalmology of the Royal Society of Medicine, in the British Medical Journal and in the Lancet. Together with Mayou, he published the well-known book on "The Pathology of the Eye" which has recently gone into a second edition, and in 1929 he published "The History and Traditions of the Moorfields Eye Hospital."

Even after the illness, which was to prove fatal, attacked him, he was still able to show his keenness for anything which would advance the interests of the subject of his life's work and he drew up and sent to the present writer notes and a draft of regulations for the formation of an International Federation of Ophthalmological Societies which will come up for discussion at the forthcoming International Congress at Madrid. And, even when he was obviously failing, he insisted on having the papers and letters brought out and read to him.

Whatever he undertook, whether it were of scientific interest or to further the more general interests of Ophthalmology, he did with his whole heart. His two greatest interests were the Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital and the Ophthalmological Society. For these he worked all his life and of these he thought as he lay dying. How dear the interests of the Ophthalmological Society were to him was shown by a letter to a junior after the latter had completed a term of office in the Society. It was a very gracious thing for an old and honoured President to take the trouble to write and thank a younger officer for the work he had done in the interests of the Society, and it threw a strong light on his affection for the Society and his keen interest in its prosperity. He was absolutely zealous in his pursuit of any scheme which would help to advance the Science and Art of Ophthalmology. He was without any envious thought, always willing to do anything to help a colleague. His heart harboured no mean thought. It is little wonder that there was awakened a strong feeling of affectionate admiration on the part of all those who were, in any way, brought into intimate association with him. Though he had no gift of languages he was immensely popular with all his foreign colleagues and when he rose to speak at a great International Meeting at Scheveningen, he was received with prolonged acclamation. He had a very pretty wit in after-dinner speaking. There was a graciousness and a quiet humour about the short speeches which he was so frequently called on to make at ophthalmic gatherings. He always seemed to be able to strike the right note and if a story were introduced it seemed always fitting to the occasion. "The Times" says of him that "he was a painstaking and skilled observer, who wrote well and clearly about the facts he had obtained by experiment and extended clinical research. A sound teacher, a skilful operator, a loyal colleague and a faithful friend."

His death leaves a gap among the workers in the Science of Ophthalmology which only very few can fill, and a wound in the hearts of many of us who were his friends of which the scar will always remain.

L. P.

Mr. J. B. Lawford writes :—

Deeply as I lament the necessity, I welcome the opportunity of offering my tribute of admiration to the life and work of Treacher Collins, and an expression of my sincere regard and esteem for him. It is perhaps the more fitting that I should do so, as I believe it is correct to say that no one was more closely associated with him in his early days at Moorfields. We both held junior posts at the hospital, and for several years were in daily contact, while a little later we undertook some lengthy investigations together. Thus I became thoroughly cognisant of his industry, his quiet persistence, and his powers of concentration and critical observation, characteristics which were even more prominent in the later stages of his career and, without doubt, proved a valuable asset in his scientific work.

Again, many years later we were closely associated as joint secretaries of the Ophthalmological Section of the International Medical Congress held in London in 1913. I have not forgotten how greatly his energy and foresight and his cheery co-operation helped in a rather formidable task.

Collins was the happy possessor of an exceptional memory for clinical and pathological details, and frequently excited my admiration by his ability to recall the features of cases or specimens examined years before. In this respect he resembled two former Moorfields surgeons, Jonathan Hutchinson and Nettleship.

His death has ended a valued friendship of nearly half a century—it has been my good fortune to share it.

Dr. John Rowan writes :—

I am in receipt of the "*British Journal of Ophthalmology*" and from it I see you hope to publish a memoir of the late Mr. E. Treacher Collins in your next number.

As I had the pleasure of travelling with him to America, to the Congress in Washington in 1922, I should like to say what an agreeable companion he was. I have travelled with him on a number of occasions, and have always found him the same. At the Congress in America, both Americans and Canadians remarked what a leading position he held in Ophthalmology. He took part in a friendly and informal way, in many of the discussions, and was always listened to with the greatest respect, and his opinion carried great weight.

What struck me there especially, was the number of men who came up and spoke to him, and the affection and respect they obviously had for him. Man after man came up at different times, and said "Do you remember me Mr. Collins? I was at Moorfields

on such and such a date." I was struck with Collins' memory, he, of course, frankly admitted he could not name them all, but it seemed to me there was hardly a man, who spoke to him that he did not know by head mark.

THE chief contributions of Mr. Treacher Collins to English Ophthalmic periodicals are summarised below.

Ophthalmic Hospital Reports.

- 1887 VOL. XI.
 Notes on in-patients.
 Anophthalmos.
- 1888 VOL. XII.
 P. 19. Complications after cataract extraction.
 P. 164. Atropine irritation.
 P. 179. Treatment of suppuration after cataract extraction.
 P. 273. Primary sarcoma of iris.
- 1889 P. 281. With Cyril Walker—Orbit. cellul. etc., accompanied by cerebral abscess.
 P. 334. Curator's notes.
- 1890 VOL. XIII.
 P. 12. With Lawford—glioma retinae.
 P. 41. Intra-ocular cysts.
 P. 81. Develop. of abnormalities in Zon. of Zinn.
- 1891 P. 104. With Lawford—sarcoma of uveal tract.
 P. 248. Tumours in each orbit.
- 1893 P. 395. With Lawford—Sarcoma of lacrymal gland. Curator's reports.
 Catalogue of Museum spec.
- 1895 VOL. XIV.
 Catalogue of Museum spec.—continued.
- 1896 P. 303. Develop. of post. elastic lamina. Memb. of Descemet.
 P. 374. Perm. cent. scotoma, caused by looking at sun.
- 1899 VOL. XV.
 P. 31. Elastic tissues of eyeball.
- 1903 P. 206. Children of patients who have had interstitial keratitis.
- 1904 VOL. XVI.
 P. 16. Prim. Chancre of Conj. and interstitial keratitis.
- 1905 P. 123. Devel. of accom. power of human lens.
 P. 247. Capsular complications after cataract extraction.
- 1910 VOL. XVIII.
 P. 1. Diseases of lymph. tiss. of the conjunctiva.

Ophthalmological Society of the United Kingdom.

- 1888 VOL. VIII.
 P. 177. Case—card spec.—diseases of the choroid.
- 1889 VOL. IX.
 Pp. 198-200. Microscop. sections of neoplasm situated between choroid and retina, exhibiting structural peculiarities.

- 1890 VOL. X.
P. 62-64. Cases—microsc. appearances of cornea in two eyes lost from xerosis or essential shrinking of conj.
Pp. 108-136. Glaucoma after extrn. of cataract.
Pp. 145-147. Lens with epithelium on post. capsule and other peculiar structural changes. Case.
- 1891 VOL. XI.
Pp. 43-47. Two cases of staining of the cornea by blood pigment.
Pp. 55-63. Glands of the ciliary body in the human eye.
P. 126. Extensive rupture of the post. capsule of lens following blow on the eye from a stone.
Pp. 133-136. A large epithel. implantation cyst in shrunken globe, 28 years after receipt of injury.
- 1892 VOL. XII.
Pp. 64-67. Epithel. implantation cyst of cornea.
Pp. 89-105. On the minute anatomy of pyramidal cataract.
Pp. 165-167. Intra-ocular neopl. of doubtful nature and origin.
Pp. 175-180. With F. R. Cross. Two cases of epithel. implantation cyst in anterior chamber after extraction of cataract.
Pp. 180-186. On the path. examn. of three eyes lost from concussion.
- 1893 VOL. XIII.
Pp. 103-106. Report on tumour of the optic nerve.
Pp. 114-127. Microphthalmos.
Pp. 128-139. Congen. defects of the iris and glaucoma.
Pp. 199-207. With F. R. Cross. Epithel. pearl tumour in iris following implantation of eye-lash in anterior chamber.
- 1894 VOL. XIV.
Pp. 83-86. Case of a primary tumour of the ciliary body of glandular structure.
Pp. 141-149. Two cases of brother and sister with peculiar vascular new growth, probably primarily retinal, affecting both eyes.
Pp. 197-199. Case of patient with congen. excess of pigment in uveal tract and pigment of scl. in one eye which later became seat of melanotic sarcoma.
Pp. 217-218. Three eye-lashes carried into the vitreous chamber by a wound with a knife.
- 1895 VOL. XV.
Pp. 104-115. Lamellar cataract and rickets.
Pp. 192-193. Polycoria with deep pitting of the optic disc.
Pp. 240-241. Case of enophth. becoming exophth. on stooping.
- 1896 VOL. XVI.
Pp. 81-86. On origin of ruptures in detached retina.
Pp. 142-149. Four cases of bilateral glioma of retina, cured by enucleation of the two eyes.
Pp. 354-355. Syphilitic thrombosis of pontine vessels. enoph. and analgesia of right 5th cranial nerve. With Mott, F.
- 1897 VOL. XVII.
Pp. 27-29. Ulcer of cornea with extensive pur. infiltration. Treatment with oxygen only—recovery.
Pp. 63-64. Case. Diss. white patches in the choroid with choles. crystals on surface.
P. 249. Report of committee on Snell's case of orbital tumour.
Pp. 254-266. Microph. with cystic protrusion from globe. Congenital abnormalities.
Pp. 266-271. Case of microph. with cyst. Path. report by E.T.C.
Pp. 324-326. Case presenting clin. char. of embolism of central artery of retina, first one eye and then the other.

1898 VOL. XVIII.

- Pp. 124-130. On the pathogen. of anterior polar cataract.
 Pp. 200-213. On the localisation of foreign bodies in the eye and orbit by
 Röntgen rays. With Mackenzie Davidson.
 Pp. 233-306. Committee on relative value of simple excision.

1899 VOL. XIX.

- Pp. 1-5. Case of monilethrix affecting the eye-lashes and eye-brows.
 Pp. 30-32. Unusual form of opacity of cornea.
 Pp. 53-61. Pigment growth of the iris.
 Pp. 209-214. Cases operated on for high myopia.

1900 VOL. XX.

- Pp. 156-164. With Devereux Marshall. Two cases of primary neopl. of the
 optic nerve.
 Pp. 190-191. Case with symm. congen. notches in outer part of each lower
 lid, and defective development of malar bones. Pp. 191-192—
 same.
 Pp. 196-197. Unusual changes in the macular region, ? the result of injury.

1901 VOL. XXI.

- P. 43. Histology of lamellar cataract (quoted).
 P. 100. With Hinnell, J. S. Diminished tension and the appearance
 of optic neuritis persisting for nine months after a wound of
 the orbit by a shot from an air-gun.
 P. 121. With Ford, A. Vernon. Case of bullet wound of orbit followed
 by blindness of both eyes.

1902 VOL. XXII.

- P. 144. Case in which Mooren's "rodent ulcer" had six years
 previously involved the whole surface of the cornea.
 P. 148. Case presenting an unusual form of opacity in the central part
 of each cornea.

1903 VOL. XXIII.

- P. 1. Case of favus of the upper eye-lid.
 P. 94. With Devereux Marshall. Primary tumours of optic nerve
 (quoted).
 P. 114. Partial atrophy of the optic nerves caused by lightning.
 Pp. 163, 168, 171. Histological descriptions of cases of plexiform neuroma of
 temporal region, orbit, eye-lid and eye-ball
 P. 244. With Parsons, J. H. Anophthalmos and microphthalmos in a
 chick.

1904 VOL. XXIV.

- P. 45. An unusual superficial circumferential opacity of the cornea
 symmetrical in the two eyes.

1905 VOL. XXV.

- P. 49. Two children in the same family with congenital opacities of
 the cornea.
 Pp. 248-257. With Batten, Rayner D. Neuro-fibroma of the eyeball and its
 appendages; clinical notes by Rayner Batten.
 Pp. 264-265. Pathological reports on specimens of glioma (case described by
 Mr. Simeon Snell).
 P. 285. Excessive development of check ligaments supposed effect on
 internal and external recti muscles (quoted).
 P. 319. Small coloboma of upper eye-lid, with peculiar thickening of
 the conjunctiva on its inner surface.

- 1906 VOL. XXVI.
P. 172. Coloboma of the iris with a bridge (2 cases).
P. 177. With Taylor, S. J. Congenitally malformed cystic eye, causing extensive protrusion of upper eye-lid and complete extrusion of conjunctival sac through the palpebral fissure.
- 1907 VOL. XXVII.
P. 47. Corneal changes in a case of myxoedema.
P. 67. Experimental reproduction of rupture of membrane of Descemet, attempted by. With George Coats.
P. 208. Adhesion of a persistent pupillary membrane to the cornea of a cat.
- 1908 VOL. XXVIII.
P. 169. Congenital anterior staphyloma (discussion, p. 184).
P. 223. Case of nodular leprosy affecting the eyes.
P. 225. Symmetrical circumferential encroachment on the cornea by the limbus of the conjunctiva in the two eyes, with an arcus senilis inside the limbus, the patient being also the subject of progressive ptosis.
- 1909 VOL. XXIX.
P. 136. Lenticonus posterior, with opaque membrane behind lens
- 1910 VOL. XXX.
P. 112. Case of wide-spread exudation internal to the choroid and beneath the retinal vessels, giving rise to a white reflex.
P. 263. Primary malignant growth of ciliary body (quoted).
P. 231. Unusual yellow patches in the iris in an eye with leucoma adherens.
P. 232. With Hudson, A. C. Pathological report on microscopical sections of eye, with unusual yellow patches in the iris excised.
P. 281. Pathological report on case of interfascicular endothelioma of the choroid situated at the optic disc.
- 1911 VOL. XXXI.
P. 396. Cases in which an intradural tumour of the optic nerve was removed with retention of the eye-ball five-and-a-half years ago.
- 1912 VOL. XXXII.
Pp. 158-173. Case of congenital anterior staphyloma.
P. 193. A case of buphthalmos with full vision and without any cupping of the optic disc.
- 1913 VOL. XXXIII.
P. 190. Concussion injury with rupture extending across the optic disc.
- 1914 VOL. XXXIV.
P. 215. An epibulbar epithelioma which completely disappeared after an application of radium bromide.
P. 228. Congenital ectropion of the lower lids.
P. 314. Apparent accommodation with aphakia.
P. 371. Of double facial paralysis.
- 1915 VOL. XXXV.
Pp. 204-226. Contusion hypotony.
P. 274. Of pigmentary cyst of iris diagnosed during life (quoted).

- 1917 VOL. XXXVII.
P. 125. Of epibulbar sarcoma cured by removal, and the application of radium.
P. 165. Bilateral multiple angiomata of the retina.
P. 217. An experimental investigation as to some of the effects of hypotony in rabbits' eyes.
- 1918 VOL. XXXVIII.
P. 165. Abiotrophy of the retinal neuro-epithelium or "retinitis pigmentosa."
- 1922 VOL. XLII.
P. 88. Hypotheses as to origin of Leber's disease, discussed by.
Pp. 176-177. Over-action of Müller's muscle in Graves' disease (quoted).
Pp. 273-287. On the aetiology of angioid streaks in the fundus oculi.
- 1923 VOL. XLIII.
P. 32. Histology of iris and ciliary body.
Method of depigmenting microscopical sections of the eye.
- 1924 VOL. XLIV.
Pp. 1-13. Presidential Address at Convention of English-speaking Ophthalmological Societies.
- 1925 VOL. XLV.
P. 86. Intra-ocular melanomata.
- 1926 VOL. XLVI.
Pp. 124-155. Metaplasia of the tissues of the eyeball.
- 1927 VOL. XLVII.
P. 83. Warty condition of the ocular conjunctiva invading the cornea following repeated exposures to X-rays.
P. 107. Notes on the natural history of retinal neoplasms. Origin of melanoblasts (quoted).
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- 1928 VOL. XLVIII.
Pp. 129-141. Theory as to the origin of primary pigmentary degeneration of retina.
P. 166. Formative fibrous tissue reaction in the eye.
- 1929 VOL. XL.
P. 55. Function of parathyroid glands in relation to lamellar cataract (quoted).
P. 78. Nature of lamellar cataract (quoted).
P. 201. The Harderian gland, xerophthalmia, vitamin A. deficiency, keratomalacia.
- 1930 VOL. L.
Pp. 10-90. Changes in the visual organs correlated with the adoption of arboreal life, and with the assumption of the erect posture.

British Journal of Ophthalmology.

- 1932 VOL. XVI.
P. 1. The physiology of weeping.
Mr. Collins also wrote for us the memoirs of the late Mr. Waren Tay, Professor Ernst Fuchs and Mr. Richardson Cross.

